AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

--[0002] The present invention relates to a core wire for a guide wire based on a copper-based, functionally graded ~~ally~~ alloy having uniform composition and diameter and continuously or stepwise changing properties such as hardness, modulus elongation, etc. These guide wires can be used in catheters and the like.--

Please delete paragraph [0047] which starts with "Figure 26 is an enlarged G-G'…".

Please replace paragraph [0065] with the following amended paragraph:

--[0065] Mg removes harmful elements such as N and O and fixes harmful elements sulfur as sulfides, thereby improving the hot workability and the toughness of the alloy. However, ~~and~~ an excess of Mg causes grain boundary segregation, thereby making the alloy brittle. The preferred Mg content is 0.001-0.5 weight %.--

Please replace paragraph [0089] with the following amended paragraph:

--[0089] The first portion has excellent shape recovery properties, exhibiting a shape recovery ratio of 80% or more. The shape recovery ~~ration~~ ratio of the second portion is as low as less than 15%, which means there are substantially no shape recovery properties. The difference in shape recovery ratio between the first and second portions can be made as large as 70% or more.--

Please replace paragraph [00112] with the following amended paragraph:

--[00112] The copper-based alloy member such as core wires, guide wires and catheters are preferably coated with Au, Pt, Ti, Pd or TiN by plating or vapor deposition. The copper-based alloy members are preferably coated with polyethylene, polyvinyl chloride, polyesters, polypropylene, polyamides, polyurethane, polystyrene, fluoroplastics, silicon rubbers or their elastomers, or composites thereof. These coating materials preferably contain X-ray contrast media such as barium sulfate. Furthermore, surfaces of the ~~cores~~ core wires, guide wires and catheters are preferably coated with lubricating materials such as polyvinyl pyrrolidine, ethyl maleate, methyl vinyl ether-maleic anhydride copolymer, etc.--